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Tuesday, October 11, 1881.

THE SUBJECT MATTER now under discussion between the respective political parties represented in the Senate is of sufficient gravity to arrest any haste of conclusion. There is not, the slightest need of vituperation or of sophistry. The issue is not of a character to evoke purely partisan doctrine or to be settled as a question of party expediency. On the contrary it is an issue that lays hold upon the foundations of our system and should be met in a spirit of patriotic discretion quite irrespective of party zeal.

The real question involved is not upon a technical rendering of the statute which says that the President of the Senate shall administer the oath of office to Senators, but whether the line of the Presidential succession shall be dislocated.

Under existing law, the person chosen by the Senate of the XLVIII Congress to be its presiding officer is the *de facto* Vice-President of the United States, and as such holds the same relation to the Executive branch of the Government that the duly elected Vice-President ordinarily holds during the life of a duly elected President.

By virtue of a series of accidents, the Democrats of the Senate have become invested with power to elect a President of the Senate, who is thereby Vice-President *de facto* of the United States. They have exerted this power to the choice of Thomas F. Bayard. The result of this action is to place the Chief Executive succession in the hands of a man who is, therefore, not a member of the Senate, and who is, therefore, not a member of the Executive branch of the Government. This is a situation which the framers of the Constitution took infinite pains and exhausted precaution to yoke the offices of President and Vice-President inseparably in the scheme devised for their joint election. Under the operation of the electoral system it is impossible that a President of one party and a Vice-President of another be chosen by the people. They must stand or fall together.

This device is to our mind proof positive that the Fathers intended the executive succession to remain during the prescribed term in the party victorious at the last preceding general election. The subsequent provision of the Constitution that Congress shall provide a mode of succession in case of the removal of both President and Vice-President does not alter the spirit of the original article. This grant of power to Congress to provide for extraordinary and unforeseen contingencies was obviously a mere supplement to the previous device, and the design was that the action contemplated in the supplement should be guided by the evident spirit and tenor of the original or main clause.

We do not attach any importance to the argument put forward by some Republicans that the existence of a Democratic Vice-President *de facto* would be, in effect, a perpetual temptation held out to some crazy Democrat to assassinate the Republican President. This is a weak plea, unworthy of common manhood.

Even if the thing had intrinsic logic, it would be vitiated by the peculiar character that has been made. We do not believe that there is a Democrat in the United States crazy enough to desire to see Mr. Bayard President, or, if there be such, his insanity is of two soft and harmless a variety to render the suspicion of violence possible.

No; that is not the question. It is not in any sense an issue reducible to a personal issue. It is, in its nature, and takes in the whole philosophy of executive succession. The fact that things have been left to run at loose ends for a hundred years argues nothing. Hitherto there has been no succession beyond the regular constitutional provision. It has always happened that two lives were sufficient to cover the four years.

But never before has the succession been dislocated. Lafayette Foster was doubtless personally opposed to Andrew Johnson, but both were elected by the same party, which preserved intact our theory of the spirit of Constitution in its provision for the executive succession.

However, it is not our purpose to confine our analysis to the limits of the presumption that the existing statute is wise. We look upon the existing statute as being itself a violation of the spirit of the Constitution.

The existing statute is, in fact, anomalous in that it transfers the executive succession out of the executive and into the legislative branch of the Government. On this point we take pleasure in calling attention to the recent review of this whole subject by Mr. D. F. Murphy, Official Reporter of the Senate.

No reflecting man can read Mr. Murphy's admirable review of the legislative history of this peculiar statute and resist the conclusion that the statute is wholly defiant of the spirit of the constitutional clause regulating succession to the Chief Magistracy.

The effect of the statute in question, when contrasted with the effect of the main constitutional provision, is this: Under the main constitutional provision two lives are assigned to cover the accidents of four years. Both these lives are designated by the people and are essentially executive.

The Congress, acting by virtue of the supplementary clause, provides for the hereditary succession; and, with characteristic selfishness, locates it within the control of Congress itself; thus transferring the executive succession, after the second stage, to the legislative branch of the Government, and thereby, in our judgment, dislocating it entirely. That is to say, if the President dies, the Vice-President succeeds. And then, if the Senator dies, a Representative must become

President. The fact that the Senator succeeding in the second place is elected President of the Senate, or that the Representative succeeding in the third place is elected Speaker of the House, does not alter the main logic. In any event the result stands that whereas, the first successor is the Vice-President elected by the people of the whole country, the second is a Senator chosen by the legislature of a State, while the third is a Representative elected by the constituency of a district.

From all these facts we deduce the conclusion that the statute itself is subversive of the intention of the Fathers, which evidently was to conserve the independence of the co-ordinate branches of the Government both presently and by succession. Thus we infer that while the Democrats are statutorily right they are constitutionally wrong. And as the Constitution precedes the statute, therefore the Democrats, no matter what the technical logic of their position may be, are fundamentally in error and therefore, as usual, occupying untenable ground.

THE *Republican* this morning, with a view of belittling ex-Congressman John Goode, of Virginia, says:
"He was not a success as a member of Congress, which it did not take Sam Randall long to discover, so he placed him at the head of a small committee, where he could not do any damage to the Government or his party."

That's all both. The fact that Sam Randall placed him at the head of a small committee is in Mr. Goode's favor. You may bet your sweet life that if John Goode could have been of any service in breaking up the Democratic party or busting a hole in the Constitution Sam Randall would have put him on the highest official pedestal in the House of Representatives.

The authorities in charge of the naval training school consider Newport to be a bad place for boys and propose a removal to some place where fewer temptations to loafing are offered.

WE FEEL authorized to say that John Sherman will not be asked to accept the Treasury portfolio in the new deal.

The Opportunity for Revenge.
Manchester Union.
The whirlwind of time brings strange revenges. Indeed, nobody supposed when John Sherman was investigating Arthur's mismanagement of the Treasury, that Arthur would so soon have an opportunity, as President, to direct an investigation of Sherman's management of the Treasury.

Dick, the Philosopher.
National Republican.
Col. Winterboth, of Kentucky, who was a candidate before the Democratic caucus for Secretary of the Senate, was asked last evening by a *Republican* reporter how he felt. He replied: "Col. Winterboth wears his defeat as an angel wears his wings—loftily and gloriously."

Just So.
Yorktown Bulletin.
The daily *Critic*, of Washington, has thoroughly demonstrated what live newspaper men can do. This *Critic* is now, undoubtedly, the most newsy paper in the District of Columbia, and has the most expert staff of newsgatherers in the city. We wish it continued success.

A Fellow Feeling.
Chicago Times.
Ex-Secretary Robeson had his pocket picked the other day, but he refused to prosecute the thief, who was, therefore, set at large. When Robeson was Secretary of the Navy the Government neglected to prosecute him. Does a fellow feeling have anything to do with the gentleman's clemency?

A Howling Success.
Steelville (Mo.) Sentinel.
The Confederate reunion at Moberly was a gratifying success in every respect. Neither the *Globe-Democrat* nor the *Post-Dispatch* could find anything in the proceedings to sneer at.

Genuine Grief.
Chicago Times.
The insurance company which had written a policy of \$25,000 upon Garfield's life, dropped its Broadway building and put out the legend: "We Mour Our Loss."

A Southern Opinion of Bayard.
Atlanta Constitution.
Senator Bayard seems inclined to play the role of Boss.

White House Nuisances.
Roaches, as well as office-seekers, are among the nuisances at the White House.

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719
OPENING.
Fall and Winter
MILLINERY
AND
Fancy Goods.

ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 12th and 13th inst., will exhibit a handsome Assortment FRENCH PATTERNS, BONNETS AND HATS. Also, Latest Novelties in Materials, at
DAVIS,
719 MARKET SPACE, corner Eighth Street.

WILL OPEN, ALSO, ON ABOVE DATES, a case of Handsome Imported FRINGES, GIMPES AND BUTTONS, comprising all the new designs in Black and colored BEAD TRIMMINGS, BUTTONS, ORNAMENTS, &c., at my low prices, now in store.
DAVIS.

DAVIS,
719 Market Space, Cor. Eighth Street.
An Elegant Line of
Ladies' Merino Underwear,
In WHITE AND SCARLET.

We call special attention to one lot of
50 dozen Ladies' Merino
Undervests and Pants.
AT 62 CENTS.

Elegantly Finished and a Medium Weight, Just suited to autumn wear. Also,
25 doz. Ladies' Medicated Scarlet
Undervests and Pants.

Warranted All Wool, at \$1.50 each—Extra Good Value.
WOODWARD & LOTHROP.

KEEP YOUR EYE OPEN FOR THE NEXT EXCURSION TO THE CAVERNS OF LURAY
LAMBIE & TRAYLOR.

WOODWARD & LOTHROP.
921 PENNA. AVENUE, 921
OPEN TO-DAY A NEW LINE OF
CORSETS,
and Call Attention to a New Number of
Colored Corsets,
In Black, Cardinal, Navy Blue
At 50 Cents per Pair.

A Better Corset than Usually Offered at this Price.
Woodward & Lothrop.
BLANKETS, COMFORTS, SHEETINGS,
AND ALL HOUSEKEEPING GOODS,
AT THE LOWEST PRICES.

BROWN & CLAGETT can now show an Elegant Line of New Fall Goods in the above line, which they intend to sell at bottom rates.
ALL FIRST-CLASS QUALITIES.
BROWN & CLAGETT,
860 MARKET SPACE.

French and English Novelties
Neckwear, Silk and Linen Handkerchiefs, Suspenders, Scarf Pins, &c., of our own importation; also, the Finest Line of Neckwear of our own make ever before shown, and at prices that must command the attention of buyers.
Winter Underwear.
Owing to the very unreasonable weather it makes one feel to get a few more lines of the largest and finest stock of Winter Underwear of our own make ever before shown, and at prices that must command the attention of buyers.

35 doz. Heavy White Merino Shirts and Drawers at \$1 each piece.
These goods are 20 per cent. less in price than any house this side of New York. Also, Full Line of
English Merino & Scotch Wool
Shirts and Drawers,
(Full Fashioned) in White and Scarlet.
Keep's Medicated Red Flannel Shirts and Drawers, \$1.75 each piece.
Keep's Improved Canton Flannel Shirts and Drawers, 80 cents each.
Will open a new line of **KEEP'S** KID AND TWEED GLOVES at SPECIAL PRICES. We desire again to call your attention to

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437 SEVENTH STREET NORTHWEST, RE-
TWEED AND ETC.
OLIVER P. BURDETTE
437 Seventh St. Northwest,
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NEW FALL
Dry Goods.
Fall and Winter 1881-82.

One Case of Wool Blankets, worth \$2.50, at \$2.00.
One Case of Blankets, worth \$5.00, at \$4.50.
One Case of Splendid Quality Calico, worth \$4, at 4 1/2c.
One Case of Middy Cloth, at 15c.
Twenty doz. 4-Button Kid Gloves, reduced from \$1 to 50c.
Black Silk Vests, \$1.25, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2 and \$2.25.
Black Cashmeres, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 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Good School Suits, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00.
Children's School Suits, short pants, \$2.50 and \$3.00.
Lot Men's Cashmere Pants, a little short worn, at half price, and half value.
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